

THE ARGUS.

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BY THE J. W. POTTER CO.

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Saturday, January 15, 1910.

Rock Island—From River to River.

The beautiful has not entirely superseded the utilitarian. There is the earmuff, for instance.

Not being able to conquer his soldiers, the French and British are getting after the Kaiser's life in the press dispatches.

With Austria taking over Montenegro, Italy may determine in a short time that the time has come to fight or retreat to a rear seat.

Now Bulgaria wants the world to rescue her hungry and war suffering. But the world didn't get anything out of Bulgaria's entrance into the war. Better see Czar Ferdinand.

The Waterloo Times-Tribune says that about everything that congressmen have said so far about the European war has been threshed out in every corner grocery in the country.

One hundred and fifty people were fined for spitting in New York City. All of which reminds us that Rock Island has an anti-spitting ordinance that is not observed in any manner, shape or form.

If Colonel George Harvey of the North American Review found things so much to his satisfaction in England, why on earth didn't he stay there? Now, added to other burdens, we'll have to listen to another colonel.

"If Mr. Roosevelt were to come into Iowa, campaigning," says the Marshalltown Times-Republican, "he could find the milk all right, but where would he find the teapoonful to go with it?" Well, but wouldn't he be able to make a milk punch?

The Chicago Herald suggests that General Carranza offer a reward of \$10,000 for the capture, dead or alive, of the men who murdered the 16 Americans. The Burlington Gazette suggests that the \$10,000 be split into rewards of \$1 apiece and in this manner get ten thousand of the murderers.

The press, the pulpit and the stage are now devoting much of their time to discussions of "sex problems." There has been so much of this lately that the public has become thoroughly disgusted with it. In this connection everybody will agree with B. L. T. in the Chicago Tribune, when he says: "We thought everything about sex had been said, to the uttermost syllable, by novelists, poets, preachers, sexologists, and sex fans generally; but if anything has been left unsaid it would be a grand idea to compel the saying of it within a specified time, so that a closed season on the subject might be declared, of 50 to 80 years."

The new law relating to the registration of births and deaths is said to be losing its efficiency through the inability to secure definite interpretations of some of its provisions and the absence of proper facilities to make it effective. The legislature, or the state legal department, should take proper steps to remedy these defects. Full and accurate vital statistics are not only important in the determination of many points of issue in matters of law, but are of supreme importance in proper treatment of many social questions. Illinois, after years of lagging, has made an effort to follow modern lines in the matter of vital statistics. The effort should not be nullified by blundering or dubiety as to the law's intent.

AMERICAN, NOT ENGLISH, SPOKEN.

England has, for years, sneered at America for the way its citizens have spoken the king's English, while America has galled under the English claim of our native language as its ruler's own. We have adopted idioms and have fallen into an appalling use of slang in an endeavor to escape the claim of the mother tongue, but, except for that sign in Paris "English spoken here," American understood we have failed to secure recognition of the difference until the European war. Turkey has at last officially recognized the American language, differentiating it from English, while prohibiting the use of the latter tongue within the Turkish empire.

When Turkey entered the war on the side of the Teutonic alliance the government took official offense against all things allied, even to languages, and prohibited the speaking of English, French, Italian and Russian within Turkish borders. The order was sweeping in its extent and heavy penalties were provided.

Straightaway those American citizens in Turkey who lacked knowledge

of other languages protested to their consuls against the discrimination and the United States ambassador protested strenuously against the new law, which, he pointed out, would embarrass so many innocent persons, who are really friendly to the government.

The situation was a most unfortunate and delicate one. The Turkish government, having issued the edict against English, could not revoke it, for that would involve explanations why England should be favored above its allies. Nor could it refuse the request of the American ambassador, which was the essence of justice.

Apparently the government was in a most embarrassing position, had reached an "impasse." Occidental diplomacy could see no way out. But between Occidental and Oriental minds there is a great variance, and Oriental diplomacy found a simple solution, a differentiation as subtle as a shadow. The Turkish government issued a second, supplementary firman which stated that, while English was forbidden, American could be spoken without breaking any law. And so American is spoken in Turkey.

Americans abroad, despite the fact their language is often mistaken for English, know the difference between the two and will be glad to learn of the official recognition of the American language. At last the broad, idiomatic, firm and crisp language of the majority of the citizens of the United States is placed on an official footing. Only Americans who have cultivated an English accent will find themselves in danger in Turkey in future.

MORE PAY FOR MILITIA.

Somebody has been to Washington to urge upon the administration that something can be done in the preparedness line by treating the militia companies of this country with more liberality. The suggestion is that a fund be provided to pay members of these companies for the time they must give to drill to perfect themselves. It is insisted that if this is done there will be a rush to militia companies all over the country.

This serves to remind us that up to date there has been mighty little material encouragement for members of the militia. In the main they have been privileged to give time and service without compensation other than the regard that is got from consciousness of an act well done. Members have had the loan of a uniform and a gun, and in some instances a hall was provided in which to do some of the drill movements.

Also in many states there was a trip to the capital once a year for a period of six days. For the time and work of this there was an allowance of six dollars. Counting emoluments and opportunities, the private militiamen have had as much as nine dollars in a prosperous year.

It might make a big difference to turn over a new leaf and provide something like adequate pay for the time and labor demanded from the militiaman if he is to make himself efficient. The German soldier in active service, thought by some to be the best in the world, gets about \$26 a year; and it is thought unreasonable to ask a young man to militate for less than that. Of course the German soldier is fed and clothed; he has all of his \$26 a year for dissipation and luxuries.

JUDGE GARY'S OVERSIGHT.

Judge Gary, head of United States steel corporation, in the course of a recent statement dilates upon the prevailing prosperity of the country and properly warns commerce and industry that abnormal prosperity must of necessity be somewhat reduced after the war. The warning is timely. But we think Judge Gary is unduly apprehensive when he predicts that our producers and wage earners will find themselves "in commercial antagonism with the most persistent and difficult competition ever experienced" and recommends that we prepare for this competition by thorough tariff protection, says the Peoria Journal.

Common sense suggests that the countries exhausted by war will be buyers from the United States on a large scale, for a long time after the war. Even now representatives of the French government are in this country getting advance information on the purchase of \$100,000,000 worth of machinery. Wages will be higher in Europe after the war than they have ever been; the shortage of labor due to death and emigration and the heavy taxes imposed to pay war debts make this a foregone conclusion. Money will be dear; resources will have run down. Home demand will take care of more than the crippled industries can produce for a long time to come. It is inevitable that Europe should be a huge buyer from this nation.

Common sense also suggests, however, that nations staggering under debt, with their capital largely exhausted, must pay for their purchases to the extent of their capacity in the surplus products of their soil and industries. A tariff which would shut off the possibility of such payment would simply close the market to us; the buying nations would simply be forced to trade with countries which would permit them a fair exchange of products.

Judge Gary, as head of an industry which has so long fattened off high protective duties, makes the characteristic error of protection extremists; he forgets that trade is not a matter of self-everything-and-buy-nothing, but an exchange of surpluses on both sides.

A notable instance of the kindness of those in charge of trans-Atlantic liners developed recently aboard the liner, Hyndam, which was stopped in mid-ocean and held on an even keel while the appendix of a passenger was removed. Besides the ship's surgeon, and the captain who stopped the ship, an American dentist cooperated in administering the anesthetic.

Selected by Tavenner



CLYDE H. TAVENNER

To the Readers of The Argus:

The Argus has generously agreed to permit me to make a regular contribution under this head, to use the space as if it were my own. I am left free to make my selection from where I will, whether it is timely or untimely; to search the highways and the byways for what may impress me as of interest and value to the people.

I assure my readers I shall try to make the most of the opportunity. To do so I must forget that party lines exist, and I will, just as I wish it might be practical for them not to exist and that the principal issue on election day might be, not whether a candidate belongs to this or that political party, but whether he is willing to serve the masses of the people or the few who exploit them.

In other words, my idea is to submit information or a thought that I would give to the world if I myself edited a newspaper, the only mission of which was to serve mankind; to do this and nothing more.

When I personally write the contribution, I will sign it, and when I present the thought and work of others I will so indicate.

CLYDE H. TAVENNER.

PREPAREDNESS.

Two striking facts may well be considered in connection with the announcement that President Wilson has approved plans for a large increase in the army and navy expenditures. In the first place, there has been a quiet movement among certain financiers interested in munition making to take advantage of expected government contracts. In the second place, no political leader of importance, none of the accepted organs of either the democratic, or the republican, or the progressive parties, and none of the organizations which have been spreading militaristic propaganda have paid the slightest attention to the proposals for elimination of private profit from the manufacture of war supplies.

On the contrary, the very men who would profit by large appropriations spent on private contracts have been most active in the militaristic movement. The "defense" movement had its origin in New York City, and won its first and most earnest members from the ranks of great business men interested in the metal industries. Openly or secretly the ammunition industry, the steel industry and the great financial interests which center in New York City have taken an active share in the teaching of preparedness. They are not, perhaps, the largest element in the movement, but they are by far the most powerful and the most dangerous. There is no menace whatever from an honest belief in military preparedness, such as is held by thousands of Americans, but there is a decided threat involved in active participation in a militaristic movement by the very men who cannot, through their interests, be impartially "patriotic."

At times these men have been so brazen as to drop the pretense of disinterestedness. At other times they have hidden behind the humorous argument that the interests of the nation demand the cultivation and encour-

agement of large private munition plants, so that an ample output could be depended upon at the outbreak of war.

It has been demonstrated by such pacifists as Dr. David Starr Jordan, by contributors to various radical publications, by the official investigators of the navy department, and by one or two curious-minded congressmen, that there is an international "armament ring," that it is amply represented in the United States, and that its American branches have habitually cheated and deceived the United States government.

Yet every proposal for an enlargement of government plants, to the gradual exclusion of the corrupt private munition and armament corporations, has been met and defeated in congress. Usually it has been defeated underhandedly, without open debate.

If President Wilson favors the proposed increase it will probably be useless to combat it. But it will be possible for members of congress who want the defense question to stand on its own merits to demand the absolute elimination of private profit from defense measures. If that is not possible congress can at least provide for full publicity regarding all contracts for war supplies. This would demand that the names of all persons financially interested in any contracting corporation should be readily available to the public. If private interests are to profit by preparedness they should be known.

Some California congressmen have already endorsed the so-called Wilson program. Constituents of these or other representatives from this state can exercise a perceptible influence by asking them to work for one of these two policies: (1) government manufacture of all war supplies, as rapidly as plants for the purpose can be provided; (2) full publicity regarding all contracts for war supplies.—San Francisco Bulletin.

a speech declaring that the British empire is doomed. But the British empire has been bearing that statement in its own parliament for hundreds of years.

ALACK!

Washington Post: A million men, we understand, are in readiness for an army nucleus. Weary Willie also had a button, but lacked the services of a kind lady to sew a shirt on it.

About 25,000 pounds of American salt pork are being consumed daily in the city of Copenhagen, Denmark. Bolivia's chief exports are tin and rubber, with tin largely predominant.

WITH OTHER EDITORS

AN EXCEPTION.

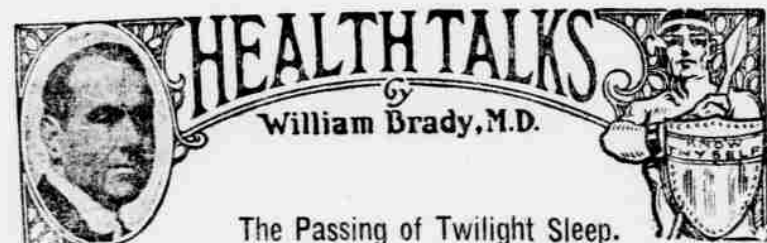
Pittsburgh Dispatch: The American system of coast defenses is "the most formidable in the world," except for a mere matter of 20,000 or so men to make it work.

AMUSING.

Chicago News: Anyway, skating was a perfectly good amusement before people conceived the idea of making it a fad.

DOOM.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: The German secretary of the treasury makes



The Passing of Twilight Sleep.

Now that the far-famed Dummer-schlaf, or "twilight sleep" has been introduced into the movies, we feel that we are safe in venturing to speak of it.

Twilight sleep is the strange name given to a method of producing forgetfulness and partial loss of pain sense in childbirth. The effect is produced by the injection into the skin of a mixture of morphine or a derivative thereof and scopolamine, the latter a narcotic which makes the patient forget her experience.

Authorities differ. That is one grand thing about competent authorities. Haven't you noticed how cordially they differ about everything, even the constitution and the law? Medical authorities differ because what is one patient's food happens to be another patient's poison, and the authorities will differ just as hard as they can without considering how different people are in that respect. But when it is fortunate for the world in general that authorities do differ about everything. Wouldn't this be a dreary, cut-and-dried existence if authorities always agreed?

Now twilight sleep is a fine thing if you can afford the prolonged attendance it requires on the part of the doctor. Twilight sleep is a fine thing for some patients even if they can't afford it—and a great many patients who can't afford a doctor, saying nothing of a nurse, are receiving it in various hospitals. Yes, even in some of those hospitals managed by lay boards—but kept going by the charity of the medical staff.

The fact is that twilight sleep, like salvarsan, tuberculin, the X-ray, radium, and nearly all new medical discoveries, is only about thirty per cent as valuable as the first headlines re-

CHORDS AND DISCORDS

Famous Come Backs.

The Cherry Sisters.
The coal pile.
T. Roosevelt.
The bill collector.
The book agent.
La Grippe.

We Stand Corrected.

Hot Springs, Ark., Jan. 12. Dear J. M. C.:

You erred in my leap year letter when you stated I was sojourning at Excelsior Springs. I know I wrote it Hot Springs. I suppose it was the printer's fault, but you ought to see that such blunders do not creep into your paper. I have wired Excelsior Springs to forward my mail here. I might add, to show that your paper is read by the women, that already I have received 14 proposals of marriage in response to my declaration. But some of the writing looks suspiciously masculine. I am taking no chances, however. I am demanding photographs from candidates. I may announce my decision on my return to Rock Island, and I may not. I walked 10 miles last night—in my sleep. How's the Harper house coal pile?

ALEX ANDERSON.

ART Struck is one of our most effective bowlers. Right off you will say he ought to be.

HUERTA, despite his tempestuous career, had a more dignified death than his predecessor as ruler of Mexico. A cancer killed him. Bullets got Madero.

From a Grateful Customer.

Chords and Discords: "I want to thank you for what you have done for my father. Before he started reading your column it was difficult for him to get to sleep at night. Since he has begun reading it we find him in peaceful slumber every evening in his Morris chair with his right thumb in the middle of the column."

"W. H."

CHICAGO paper referred to it as the "Chicago Choral society." Likely the writer had attended one of the concerts and knew whereof he spoke.

Leap Year Item.

Notice: I will not be responsible for any debts. Am not married. EDWARD ELLERY AUSTIN.—Adv. in Rockford Star.

IT is hardly necessary to inquire if you are taking your cold plunge regularly these refreshing mornings.

PRUYN vs. Coffee is the title of a Minneapolis divorce action. The grounds? We don't know.

HAVE you seen the advance models of the spring suits milady of extreme taste is expected to wear? Positively, Muriel, we won't know whether you are going or coming.

CONVICTS are to have music at their meals, according to announcement of Pennsylvania penitentiary. 'Pears to us SING SING would have been the first to advocate such a plan.

She Never Had a Chance, and Then.

Once upon a time there was a girl. She couldn't dance. She didn't know how to use her eyes. Only two men had ever called on her. And they never called again. Her papa and mamma never had any trouble in getting her tucked safely in her little bed by 9:30. The answer? She was most powerful homely. So she did the natural thing, viz.: she came to Michigan. Right away quick somebody took her to Granger's. And somebody else took her. And they took her again. And she went to the Maj. and football games and class parties—and to all with fellows. To cap the climax she went to the hop—the only co-ed so honored. She was the rage, the most beautiful bit of feminine beauty that had stepped on the campus in years. She didn't know what to think so she hoped for the best and believed it was true. And she went back home for Christmas vacation, got her name and her picture in the paper, wore clothes that looked like Mrs. Vernon Castle and became popular.

Moral: So yuh see colleges are good for sumpin' after all.—Michigan Gar-goyle.

IT appears that most of the girls are taking a long look before they leap.

LAWRENCE Sherman is now urging heavier taxes on the wealthy. This declaration, together with the fact that he is looking more like Lincoln every day and his publicly proclaimed refusal to wear dress clothes or a wrist watch, ought to get him a hand from the boys who wait for the whistle.

WE have received numerous inquiries for the name of the automobile that was awarded a Davenport woman by a court jury in return for a kiss she gave a Scott county farmer. We are precluded from furnishing the desired information because of our box office rules, but we might enlighten to the extent of saying that it was manufactured in a plant owned by a gentleman who paid the fares of a delegation that recently went to Europe in the hope of getting the boys out of the trenches before Christmas. Inasmuch as it was a second hand car, many who have followed the case agreed that the woman got the worst of it in the verdict of the jury.

Preparedness.

The conductor of this column of calumny wishes to acknowledge, with deep gratitude, a belated Christmas gift in the form of a five-cent fly swatter. We suspect it was sent us by the Army and Navy league.

J. M. C.

The Daily Story

My Most Important Law Case — By John Y. Larned.

My most important law case? If you mean the most important case to me individually, it was a case of breach of promise. It was a case where a woman sued a man for refusing to keep a contract of marriage and to settle on her at the same time \$100,000. The strange feature was that the man, who was madly in love with the plaintiff, was as madly desirous to marry her, but claimed that he hadn't the \$100,000 to give her.

My first interpretation of the case was that the woman was trying to bleed a man without having ever had any intention to marry him; my second was that she had a passion for getting men in love with her. Fitz Mooney, the defendant, in a written appeal for Kate Jackson, plaintiff, to marry him, had agreed to settle \$100,000 on her if she would do so. He had at the time made twice that amount on the Stock Exchange, but had lost it all. For some reason that the lady kept to herself, knowing that he was unable to keep the financial part of his contract, she sued him on the agreement.

Kate Jackson was a widow, not especially good looking, but possessing a magnetism over men that enabled her to do what she pleased with them. She came into my office a stranger to me, offered me her case, and I was convinced from the first that she was simply desirous of annoying Mr. Fitz Mooney, though what was her object in doing so I could not imagine. There was nothing to be got out of him, and I convinced her of the fact—if she was not convinced already—but she insisted on proceeding with the case.

Since I was then struggling to gain a practice and with poverty at the same time, I consented; but not before the lady had paid me \$100 retaining fee. I was soon sorry that I had accepted it. I had spent it. I was unable to get rid of my client by returning it. Never have I had such an annoying case. Mrs. Jackson did not give me her confidence, and I was continuously in doubt as to what she was driving at. Instead of my managing the case for her she was managing the plaintiff through me. Her ground of action was that she had declined several offers of rich men to accept the defendant, that he had won her affection, died, disappeared or failed to propose again. She had thus been deprived of a pick of several fortunes. She proved these assertions by showing me love letters from these parties, and on inquiry I learned that they were rich men. What I did not learn was that they were not still available as husbands.

Half a dozen times I had the case ready to be tried, and every time something occurred to cause delay. Once the plaintiff, who was always speculating, having made \$50,000 in wheat, offered to settle it all on her and marry her as well if she would accept the compromise. She peremptorily declined. The money was soon lost in copper, and my client to my surprise seemed suddenly mortified and showed signs of dropping the suit. I foolishly showed her a letter from the defendant, who was getting worn out as I was with the case, upbraiding her, whereupon she turned square about and demanded the whole amount for which she had sued, asking me if she could not double the claim.

Meanwhile my bills for services and costs were growing. The widow paid my bills promptly, but the costs went on accumulating. I reminded her that she would probably lose in the end, getting, if anything, a nominal award and would have to pay the court as well as my professional fees. But this did not stagger her in the least. The summer was coming on, and she went into the country, whence reports came that she had enthrallled every man who came near her. I was in hopes that she would be snared herself and drop her case against Fitz Mooney. No such good luck. The last week in August she wrote me that she would return immediately after Labor day and desired that I would be ready to bring her suit to trial as soon thereafter as possible.

But when she returned a change had come for Fitz Mooney. He had sunk a lot of money in cotton, and on winding up his deals the account showed that he owed his broker \$75,000. This was not all. His troubles, largely his affairs with the widow, had broken down his health, and he was lying very ill in a hospital.

Such was his condition when the plaintiff sailed in to my office and asked me if I was ready to try his case. I replied by giving her a brief account of Fitz Mooney's misfortunes, adding that I feared he would die before we could get judgment.

"Oh, my goodness gracious!" was the response.

Never have I seen a more sudden collapse. She begged me to call a cab at once, and when it came, apparently oblivious of me, she ran down to it and drove to the hospital.

That is the last I saw of her till after Fitz Mooney had recovered and I attended the wedding. I have seen much of the perversities of the fair sex, but nothing like this. I learned later on that the couple had been engaged and had had a spat occasioned by a criticism of Fitz Mooney of his fiancée's accepting an attention from another man. Out of this grew the whole trouble.

Sidelights on the European War

London.—Hotel life of London is undergoing an important change which is proving disastrous to old fashioned houses. This is an evolution in the management of the middle class hotels. The last decade saw the introduction of fashionable restaurants as the most conspicuous and profitable feature of the high priced hotels. In the old days dining in public was a continental custom; British people of the upper classes sought privacy and retirement. When men were dining out they sought their clubs, or small restaurants, and ladies did not dine at hotels or restaurants often except when travelling. The big restaurants with music and evening dress were the resort only of the ultra gray set.

The new hotel life which is fast coming into vogue means the large and brilliantly lighted hotels, with music and chowds, for the middle classes. In some details these hotels are patterned on American lines, but in some respects they go beyond American customs. "Extras" were the handicap to hotel patrons of the older days. What are now termed "inclusive" rates were hardly known. Charges for rooms were reasonable, but when to those charges were added separate items for bath, fires, lights and attendance, stopping at a middle class hotel became more expensive than in American cities. Two dollars, or two dollars and a half per day were the standard rates for the room alone, without the tariff of extras.

The ultra modern landlords have discovered that the public wants to know the round sum that a day's entertainment will cost. Consequently the "inclusive" rate. This change in the popular houses now covers bedroom, bath and breakfast, as well as the lights and fires. Some of the largest houses provide this scale of entertainment for a dollar and a half to two dollars. All of those houses are developments of the past three or four years. They make a particular appeal to English people from the country and provincial cities, and the people of the middle class with small incomes but of good station in life are the ones who respond.

Provincials and army officers staying in London crowd these places; and more hotels of the same type are certain to appear. Meantime the big, dreary old fashioned houses are nearly empty. Some are closing. One of the most famous in England has rented about half its floor space to the government for offices. Others probably will pass into the hands of the new companies.

London.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)—An important conference will be held in London in January to discuss proposals dealing with British trade after the war to

prepare a program to be laid before the government in the name of British commerce. The object of the conference will be to form an offensive and defensive commercial alliance of the entente powers against Germany and her allies. The conference will be attended by representatives of all the chambers of commerce throughout the United Kingdom and it is thought that as a result of the deliberations then held, the future commercial policy of the country will be formulated.

Although the questions of post-bellum rehabilitation have occupied trade circles for some time and been frequently discussed informally, the first expression of government opinion was made by Mr. Asquith in a recent meeting of parliament, when he stated that present preoccupation in the endeavor to secure victory ought not to prevent the taking of measures to insure the proper consideration of economic, social and financial problems which will arise after the war. The chamber of commerce insist that business men in trade immediately begin investigations and that a defined trade policy should be evolved as soon as possible, or at least long before the war is over, so that a basis may be prepared for a commercial alliance with the entente powers which shall become operative the day that peace is signed.

The Hague, Netherlands.—The fears, early in the war, that Holland would be drawn into it sooner or later have been gradually allayed and now practically nothing is heard of such a probability, but preparedness for any eventuality continues to be a popular policy. The Dutch Red Cross is to be completely reorganized in January, under the superintendence of high officials of the army and navy medical corps and some of the most prominent civilian medical authorities. The headquarters of the society, which have been in an inadequate building near the United States legation here, are to be moved to a large mansion on Prinsesengracht, the former home of an old Dutch aristocratic family which is a gift to the Red Cross from four wealthy residents.

Daily History Class—Jan. 15.

1716—Philip Livingston, "signer" for New York, born at Albany.
1811—Abby Kelly (Foster) abolitionist and radical, born; died 1887.
1815—United States warship President defeated by a British fleet of four ships—172 guns against 44—in a running battle off New York harbor.

1915—The Austrians successfully bombarded Russian positions on the Doujez front, in Galicia, with guns of large caliber. Tarnow suffered under their fire.